

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10

NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 SS-15 STR-07 /114 W

-----061406 011402Z /43

R 291333Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3256

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USDA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 3184

STOCKHOLM FOR AGATT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FI

SUBJECT: FINLAND TO IMPORT BREAD GRAIN DUE TO CROP FAILURE

1. AUGUST RAINS AND FROSTS HAVE CAUSED AN ALMOST COMPLETE CROP FAILURE OF BREAD GRAINS FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW. THIS YEAR'S LOSS, HOWEVER, IS ESTIMATED TO BE FMK 500 MILLION (US DOLLARS 125 MILLION), MORE THAN DOUBLE LAST YEAR'S.

2. RAINS DESTROYED JUST ABOUT ALL OF THE WHEAT CROP. ONLY FIVE PERCENT CAN BE USED FOR FOOD. EVEN AFTER 40,000 METRIC TONS ARE ADDED FROM SECURITY STOCKS SOME 200,000 MT WILL HAVE TO BE IMPORTED TO MEET FINLAND'S ANNUAL NEED OF 300,000 MT. THE STATE GRANARY, WHICH HAS A GRAIN IMPORT MONOPOLY, PREFERS US HARD WINTER AND NORTHERN SPRING TYPES OF WHEAT. APPARENTLY, SWEDISH SUPPLIERS WILL

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NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MUCH WHEAT THIS YEAR, SO MOST WILL BE IMPORTED FROM THE US. IMPORTS WILL START IMMEDIATELY AS SECURITY STOCKS OF BREAD GRAIN ARE ALMOST NONEXISTENT. A SEED SHORTAGE NECESSITATES USE OF ALL AVAILABLE HIGH-QUALITY DOMESTIC WHEAT FOR SEEDS.

3. AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCED AREA OF RYE GROWN AND A  
BAD CROP, THERE WILL BE A SHORTAGE OF SOME 50,000 MT  
OF RYE, ABOUT HALF OF FINLAND'S ANNUAL RYE CONSUMPTION.  
RYE IMPORTS WILL BE STARTED BEFORE THE END OF THE  
YEAR, WITH THE US CONSIDERED A SOURCE OF HIGH-QUALITY  
RYE.  
RIDGWAY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** IMPORTS, GRAINS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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